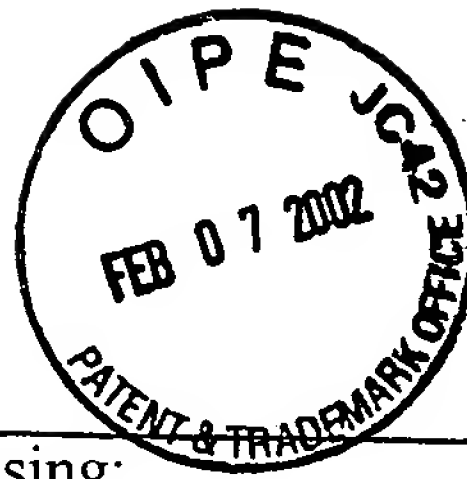


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Technology Center 2100

1. A mini-pallet comprising:

a substantially rectangular deck having a length defined by a first two opposing sides, a width defined by a second two opposing sides, an upper surface, a lower surface, and a perimeter comprising at least one double wall edge;  
two downwardly projecting parallel load supporting rails connected to said substantially rectangular deck, said rails proximate to each of said first two opposing sides of said substantially rectangular deck, said rails extending a portion of the width of the deck and defining a clearance space below the rectangular deck; and  
a downwardly projecting central support connected to said deck, and located intermediate of both said first two opposing sides and said second two opposing sides, wherein the clearance space is unobstructed between the rails except for the central support.
2. The mini-pallet of claim 1 wherein said deck, said downwardly projecting rails and said central support are integrally connected.
3. The mini-pallet of claim 1 wherein said downwardly projecting rails extend substantially the width of the deck in a direction parallel with said first two lateral sides.
4. The mini-pallet of claim 3 wherein said central support is less than half the width of the deck in a direction parallel with said two lateral sides.
5. The mini-pallet of claim 1 wherein said at least one double-wall edge further

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comprises at least two stiffening ridges longitudinally spaced along and connected to said at least one double-wall edge.

6. The mini-pallet of claim 5 wherein said double-wall edge has a U-shaped transverse cross-section, and further comprises at least two drain holes located on said at least one double-wall edge.
7. The mini-pallet of claim 1 wherein said deck further comprises a plurality of spaced-apart linear support members and at least two openings providing communication from the upper surface through the deck.
8. The mini-pallet of claim 7 wherein said linear support surfaces have a horizontal deck forming portion and a vertical reinforcing portion.
9. The mini-pallet of claim 7 wherein said linear support members have a T-shaped cross-sectional shape.
10. The mini-pallet of claim 7 wherein said deck further comprises a plurality of radially extending reinforcing ribs.
11. The mini-pallet of claim 7 wherein said spaced-apart linear support members form a grid-like pattern among said openings connecting said central support, said downwardly projecting rails, and said double-wall edge.
12. The mini-pallet of claim 1 further comprising a rail pocket opening upwardly through the upper surface of said deck, compatible with a downwardly projecting rail of a similarly shaped mini-pallet, and adapted to receive at least a portion of said similarly shaped mini-pallet rail when multiple mini-pallets are nested.

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13. The mini-pallet of claim 12 further comprising a fitting bead within the rail pocket configured to contact the downwardly projecting rail of a similarly configured mini-pallet when the similarly configured mini-pallet is nested atop the mini-pallet.
14. The mini-pallet of claim 12 further comprising a fitting tooth within the rail pocket configured to contact a similarly configured mini-pallet's downwardly projecting rail when the similarly configured mini-pallet is nested atop the mini-pallet
15. The mini-pallet of claim 1 wherein said downwardly projecting rails further comprise at least two substantially downwardly projecting lateral walls with bridging ribs therebetween, a horizontal base to form a lower surface of said projecting rails, and a vertical support member spaced apart from said lateral walls and extending upwardly from the horizontal base.
16. The mini-pallet of claim 15 wherein said bridging ribs have an inverted T-shaped cross-section.
17. The mini-pallet of claim 1 wherein said central support has a substantially continuous circular outer perimeter.
18. The mini-pallet of claim 1 wherein said central support has a substantially continuous arcuate outer perimeter.
19. The mini-pallet of claim 1 wherein said central support has an outer edge defining an even-sided polygon.
20. The mini-pallet of claim 1 in combination with a carrier, wherein said central

support is compatible with a recessed portion in a tongue of the carrier.

21. The mini-pallet of claim 1 further comprising a pocket on the upper surface of the deck coaxial with said central support and adapted to receive at least a portion of a similarly shaped mini-pallet's central support when multiple mini-pallets are nested.
22. The mini-pallet of claim 21 wherein said pocket further comprises reinforcing ribs within the pocket connected to an interior surface of said pocket.
23. A first shipping tray comprising:
- a deck having a length and a first pair of opposing lateral sides at ends of said length and a second pair of opposing lateral sides, said first pair of opposing lateral sides being substantially parallel;
  - a plurality of downwardly extending load supporting legs proximate with said first pair of opposing lateral sides and extending a depth below said deck thereby defining a clearance space between the second pair of opposing lateral sides below said deck;
  - a central support extending downwardly from about the center of said deck intermediate of both the first pair of opposing lateral sides and the second pair of opposing lateral sides to the depth of the legs wherein said central support is substantially the only obstruction in the clearance space;
  - said deck above at least a portion of said plurality of legs and said central support; and

said central support having an exterior surface, and a pocket capable of receiving at least a portion of a similarly configured second shipping tray having a central support when said second shipping tray is nested atop the first shipping tray.

24. A first tray comprising:

a deck having a center and a perimeter;

two legs proximate to the perimeter of the deck downwardly extending from a bottom surface of said deck to a depth, said legs located on opposing sides of the center of the deck and defining a clearance space below said deck at the depth of the legs between said legs;

two leg pockets located on a top surface of said deck and compatible to receive at least a portion of legs of a similarly shaped second tray when said first and second trays are stored in a nested position;

a central support located near the center of said deck intermediate the perimeter of the deck, said central support being substantially the only obstruction in the clearance space, said central support extending from a bottom surface of said deck to the depth of the legs, and having an outer perimeter portion compatible with a portion of a carrier lifting tongue; and

a cylindrical pocket located on a top surface of said deck compatible to receive at least a portion of a central support of the second tray when said first and second trays are in a nested position.

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